

REMARKS

This Amendment further addresses the outstanding Office Action dated September 22, 2008, in view of the Advisory Action dated December 18, 2008. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the interview conducted on January 06, 2009. During the interview, Claims 7 and 14 were discussed and contrasted with the teachings of Ilnicki in view of Rees. In particular, the connection between the client network and the server network of Ilnicki was contrasted with the features as set forth in Claims 7 and 14.

Applicants hereby state that the substance of the interview is accurately reflected in the Examiner's Interview Summary record of January 13, 2009, as well as in the present Amendment.

By this Amendment, independent Claims 7 and 14 have been amended to more clearly recite subject matter intended to be claimed. New claims 20-22 have been added in order to capture features previously recited in Claims 7 and 14. Claims 1-6, 9, 13 and 15-17 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Claims 7, 8, 10-12, 14, and 18-22 are pending.

In the Office Action, Claims 7-8, 10-12, 14, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,751,667 to Ilnicki ("*Ilnicki*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,981,265 to Rees ("*Rees*").

Without acceding to the rejections, Claim 7 now recites, *inter alia*, receiving a request from the client network at a first port of a server application hosted in the

server machine to establish a first connection at a first security level with the first port of the server application, and generating a second connection at a second security level between the gateway machine and a third port of the server application, the third port being configured to receive at least one message at the second security level from the gateway machine via said second connection. Support is provided, for example, at pages 6 and 7 of Applicant's specification.

It is apparent that the applied references do not teach or suggest at least the above features of Claim 7.

For example, Ilnicki fails to teach or suggest establishing a connection at a first security level with a first port of the server application, and a second connection at a second security level with a third port of the server application, as recited in Claim 7.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 distinguishes patentably from Ilnicki whether taken alone or in combination with Rees.

Claim 14 also recites, *inter alia*, receiving a request from the client network at a first port of a server application hosted in the server machine to establish a first connection at a first security level with a first port of the server application, and establishing a second connection at a second security level with a second port of the server application, the second port being configured to receive at least one message at the second security level from the gateway machine via said second connection.

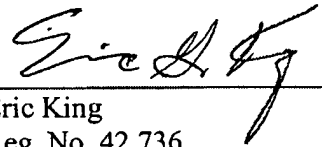
Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 14 distinguishes patentably from the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 7.

The remaining claims are also believed to be patentable due to their respective dependence from independent Claims 7 and 14, as well as for the additional features recited in the remaining claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2147-907461) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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